

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been added in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply additional claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-20 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC '103

The 35 USC '103 rejection of claims 1-12 as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al. (US 6,380,497 B1), Mamish et al. (US 6,355,344 B1), Rowe (US 4,396,665) and Itaya et al. (US 5,181,030) is respectfully traversed.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated hereat by reference.

Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following.

Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention is directed toward providing touch screen arrangements allowing more precise gap control of lamination layers, more stabilized linearity of resistances in using resistance films, and better coordinate detection. In order to accomplish the same, Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention includes a conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member (e.g., member 8 shown in Applicant's FIGS. 2-3) disposed between the first resistance film and the inter-substrate connection wiring electrode, the conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member electrically connecting the first resistance film and the inter-substrate connection wiring electrode, and the conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member having pressure sensitive adhesive material in which conductive particles are mixed formed on both surfaces of a metal foil for laminating the first substrate and the second substrate. All of Applicant's claims (including added system claims 13-20 paralleling ones of display device claims 1-9) have such features/limitations.

Turning now to rebuttal of the applied art, Hashimoto et al. (US 6,380,497 B1) relates to a high strength touch panel. However, as admitted by the Examiner within the Office Action (page 2, last five lines), Hashimoto et al. fails to disclose the required adhesive film in proper configuration and the required resistance film. Applicant agrees, and respectfully submits that Hashimoto et al. does not disclose or suggest the previously-discussed features/limitations of Applicant's claims, i.e., Applicant's

conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member and the arrangements associated therewith.

The Office Action attempts to offer Rowe (US 4,396,665) as curing the deficiency with respect to Hashimoto et al. However, Rowe is directed to roofing laminates, not touch panels. One skilled in the art working on touch panel arrangements would NOT look to the roofing art for analogous or applicable teaching. That is, it is respectfully submitted that Rowe represents art irrelevant and inapplicable to the present touch panel arrangement art.

Mamish et al. (US 6,355,344 B1) and Itaya et al. (US 5,181,030) likewise do not disclose or suggest Applicant's conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member and the arrangements associated therewith. More particularly, Mamish et al. relates to a non-fogging pressure sensitive adhesive film material, i.e., a material exhibiting less outgassing of materials such as plasticizers or the like, which might fog adjacent surfaces such as a glass substrate. Mamish et al.'s material is not at all conductive. Itaya et al. appears to have been cited for its teachings of using resistance film touch panels.

In view of the fact that the rejection is based upon a collection of four references including one from the unrelated roofing art, it is readily apparent that the Examiner is using hindsight picking and choosing bits and pieces of references in an attempt to reconstruct Applicant's invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection appears to be an improper hindsight rejection attempt, where the

hindsight of Applicant's own disclosure is the incentive driving the attempted combination/modification of references. Such is improper and totally unsupportive of an obviousness-type rejected under U.S. patent law.

In addition to the foregoing, the following additional remarks from Applicant's foreign representative are also submitted in support of traversal of the rejection and patentability of Applicant's claims.

Hashimoto (USP 6,380,497) discloses the following matters: On bonding the upper electrode sheet 1 with the lower electrode sheet 2 by adhesive sheet 3, each auxiliary electrode 22 of the upper electrode sheet 1 is electrically connected with each terminal part of the lower electrodes 121 of the lower electrode sheet 2 via the conductive adhesive in each of the through-holes 3b of the adhesive sheet 3, so that electricity can be supplied from each of the auxiliary electrodes 22 of the upper electrode sheet 1 to each of the lower electrodes 121 of the lower electrode sheet 2. (Figs. 1 and. 8; col. 5, lines 50-59). Further, Hashimoto does not disclose any construction details of the conductive adhesive in each of the through-holes 31b of the adhesive sheet 3. Accordingly, Hashimoto does not disclose the structure of the conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member of Applicant's claims.

Mamish (USP 6,355,344) discloses a non-fogging pressure sensitive adhesive film material. However, the non-fogging pressure sensitive adhesive film material of Mamish does not have an object and a function of electrical connection. Further, Mamish does not disclose the metal foil of claim 1, or the conductive particles of claims

1 and 10. Accordingly, Mamish is not particularly relevant to claims 1-12, and adds little value toward the rejection when combined with the other cited references.

Rowe (USP 4,396,665) discloses self-adhesive roofing laminates having a metal layer therein. However, a technical field of the self-adhesive roofing laminates is clearly different from the touch panel and the screen input type display device of Applicant's claims. Further, the self-adhesive roofing laminates of Rowe do not have an object and a function of electrical connection although having metal layer therein. Accordingly, Rowe is not particularly relevant to claims 1-12, and adds little value toward the rejection when combined with the other cited references. (4) Itaya (IisP 5,181,030)

Itaya discloses a touch panel, but again, does not disclose the structure of the conductive pressure sensitive adhesive member of claims 1-12.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art (taken alone and in the Office Action combinations) would not support a '103 obviousness-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such '103 rejection, and express written allowance of all of the '103 rejected claims, are respectfully requested. Further, at this point, it is respectfully submitted as a reminder that, if new art is now cited against any of Applicant's unamended claims, then it would not be proper to make a next action final.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.40040X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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